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Top Secret 219

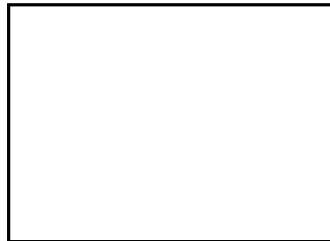
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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Thursday 22 September 1977

CG NIDC 77/221C



NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Thursday, 22 September 1977.

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The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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USSR: Jewish Emigration Increase

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[] A significant increase in the number of Soviet Jews receiving exit permits in recent weeks has brought the rate of potential Jewish emigration from the USSR to a three-year high. The timing of this sudden increase suggests that it is deliberate; it clearly seems part of Moscow's general effort to prepare and document its case on the eve of the European security review conference that opens in Belgrade on 4 October. Given the important role the emigration issue has played in US-Soviet relations in recent years, Moscow may also intend the current increase to signal a desire to improve relations with the US.

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[] The Netherlands Embassy, which handles Israeli interests in the USSR, reports that the 1,088 visas issued during the first two weeks on September has brought the 1977 total so far to 11,272, or 24 percent higher than the same period last year.

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[] The pattern of Jewish emigration has varied over the years as Moscow responded to changing internal and external factors. Annual emigration of Soviet Jews rose from about 1,000 in 1970 to a peak of nearly 35,000 in 1973. It declined to about 13,000 in 1975 and reached approximately 14,000 in 1976.

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[] Emigration through June of this year ran at about the same rate of 1,100 to 1,200 monthly that has--with some fluctuation--obtained for about the past two years. It rose to about 1,300 in July and to 1,500 in August, although the summer months normally show some decline from average monthly figures.

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[] Whether the current rate of Jewish emigration can be sustained in coming months will probably depend in large measure on Moscow's assessment of the political impact of increased emigration on developments at Belgrade, and perhaps on US-Soviet relations as well. []

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POLAND: Bishops Ask Media Access

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[] *In a pastoral letter requesting access to state-controlled media, the Polish bishops have forcefully reminded the Communist leadership that they are not satisfied with the regime's policies toward the Church. There is virtually no chance the Bishops' request will be granted.*

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[] For the second year in a row, the Episcopate used the Day of Mass Communications, a Vatican-sponsored event, to criticize the regime for denying the Church access to the media. This year's pastoral letter, which was read in all churches on Sunday, was much sharper in tone than that of last year. Among other things, the letter said that the Polish media are used to justify political lawlessness and the violation of basic human rights and to promote class hatred.

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[] The bishops asked that the Church be permitted to broadcast the mass on radio and television for the benefit of shut-ins and expressed the "strong demand" that the regime prevent the airing of programs that insult religious feelings. The bishops also called on believers to send written protests to the media and to listen to Vatican Radio; parish priests gave their congregations the wave lengths and times of Polish-language broadcasts from the Vatican.

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[] The Church's efforts to gain greater access to the media are longstanding. In addition, the Polish Primate, Cardinal Wyszynski, and the Episcopate have spoken out in defense of human rights and have made other demands including permission to build more churches. Church leaders may have expected some concessions in return for their efforts to keep tension under

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control following the worker disturbances last year. In this the bishops have been disappointed, and the pastoral letter suggests that they now feel greater pressure is needed.

[] The regime will find it difficult to acquiesce for ideological as well as political reasons. To give in would clearly demonstrate the power of the Church. In addition, the leadership is wary of the Soviets, who have long expressed their misgivings about the power of the Catholic Church in Poland.

[] The regime cannot be happy at the prospect that the Church will take on a more aggressive posture at a time when Poland is in the throes of serious economic problems.

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WEST GERMANY - ITALY: Kappler

25X1 [] *The West German Government, as expected, has rejected Italy's request to extradite Herbert Kappler, the former SS chief in Rome, but has begun legal proceedings against him in West Germany for his wartime crimes. Officials in Bonn expect an initial wave of criticism in the Italian press that will die out before Chancellor Schmidt and Prime Minister Andreotti meet next month. Just as important, West German officials probably hope that their decision to try Kappler will begin to undercut the anti-German sentiment that has spread in Western Europe in recent weeks partly as a result of the Kappler affair.*

25X1 [] A West German Foreign Office official labeled the decision, which was communicated to Rome yesterday, as a face-saving device for both governments. Kappler's escape from a Rome hospital in early August embarrassed the hard-pressed Andreotti government and led to Defense Minister Lattanzio's transfer to another ministry. The West German Basic Law, however, prohibits the extradition of German citizens.

25X1 [] The official implied that the Italian Government had already agreed unofficially to Bonn's decision. The West Germans have requested Italian legal assistance and documentation and expect that such participation will remove the Kappler affair as an irritant in bilateral relations.

25X1 [] There is little chance that Kappler will be imprisoned. German authorities have judged that his declining health could make trial proceedings impractical, and his 32 years in Italian custody is already far longer than the term usually served on a life sentence in West Germany.

25X1 [] West German officials are confident that the Kappler affair will play little, if any, role when Schmidt and Andreotti meet. After the Kappler escape forced postponement of their meeting on 19 August, the two leaders were unable to agree on a date late this month. West German officials now expect the meeting will be held sometime next month and will concern the improving Italian economic situation, elections to the European Parliament, EC expansion, and the Italian domestic situation.

25X1 [] West German leaders probably expect that their decision to try Kappler will help to offset the increased anti-German sentiment evident in Western Europe in recent weeks.

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This sentiment, fed in part by the Kappler affair, is also based on reviving public interest in West Germany in the Nazi era and by apprehensions that terrorism in West Germany might provoke a repressive action. [REDACTED]

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LEBANON-ISRAEL: Situation Report

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[REDACTED] *Israeli shelling of Palestinian-held areas in southern Lebanon continued yesterday.* [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] According to press reports, Israeli troops have set up new positions inside Lebanon near Dayr Mimas, about three kilometers north of Kafr Killa, where three Israeli military posts allegedly were established on Tuesday. The Israelis reportedly have declared Kafr Killa a "military zone" and have barred Lebanese from entering the area.

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[REDACTED] We are still not able to confirm that Israeli forces have occupied positions at either of these locations, but press dispatches continue to note that Israeli troops are very much in evidence in the Israeli border village of Metulla, some two kilometers east of Kafr Killa. A small Israeli force has been situated farther north near Al Qulayah for several days supporting Christian forces in that area.

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[REDACTED] The Israelis still have not publicly confirmed their involvement in the fighting and have tightened censorship of press reporting on military developments along the border.

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SOUTH AFRICA: Biko Funeral Plans

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[REDACTED] *The funeral of black leader Steve Biko near his home in eastern Cape Province on Sunday will be attended by black leaders and white sympathizers from all over South Africa. Memorial services will be held in many other locations. Numerous services have already taken place, including some in Soweto, where there were several incidents between mourners and police, and at least one black was killed. Black leaders are emphasizing, however, that the formal services must be peaceful.*

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[] The depth and breadth of reaction to Biko's death appears to have taken the South African Government by surprise. Some members of the ruling Nationalist Party are privately critical of Justice Minister Kruger's handling of the matter, and the party evidently considers the issue a serious one. Last week, Kruger dismissed domestic and international protests, suggesting Biko had starved himself to death.

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[] Kruger may not have helped his position in discussing the matter with Kwazulu Chief Minister Buthelezi earlier this week. According to US Embassy sources, Kruger told Buthelezi, who had earlier made one of his strongest attacks ever on the government, that white patience is wearing thin, and that if the blacks continued in their confrontational course, there would be "another blood river." This was a reference to the historic white victory over the Zulus in 1838, now celebrated annually as the Day of the Covenant. Buthelezi reportedly has a tape of the conversation and may publicize Kruger's remarks.

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[] Despite these pressures, Kruger will probably be supported by Prime Minister Vorster, at least for now. The government is clearly under fire from many parts of the domestic political spectrum, however, and if the Biko autopsy reveals severe maltreatment, a scapegoat from among the police will probably have to be found.

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[] Although the mood among black leaders is largely one of resignation, the Biko affair adds one more level of frustration. One prominent moderate black leader in Soweto told a US Embassy officer that, because the government has refused to deal with black moderates trying to reach peaceful solutions, only violence lies ahead. []

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CHINA: Semiconductor Technology

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[] //The Chinese, after a late start in the development of an electronic industry, have developed some fairly advanced semiconductor memory prototypes and are researching Western logic designs and processing technologies. Chinese semiconductor technology lags behind that of the West by some 10 years, but China has placed a high priority on developing this technology because it is the key to advancement in other areas.//

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[REDACTED] //Most of China's semiconductor products appear to be relatively simple devices--discrete transistors and small-to medium-scale integrated circuits comparable to those produced by the US in the mid to late 1960s. The dozen new computer models developed by the Chinese since 1971 incorporate these types of integrated circuits.//

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[REDACTED] //The Chinese have ambitious programs to develop computer-aided design and production. They are increasing efforts to purchase production technology from the West

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[REDACTED] Most of the equipment China seeks, however, is currently under COCOM embargo.//

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[REDACTED] //Development of integrated circuit production technology is important to China because progress in other areas, such as the computer industry and digital control of machine tools, will be greatly dependent on progress in semiconductor technology. Semiconductor devices, moreover, can improve the performance and reliability of military electronics systems. China's armed forces, for this reason, probably support certain research projects at major semiconductor facilities, such as the Peking Semiconductor Institute.

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BRIEFS

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France

25X1 [] //France's fifth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, Le Tonnant, was launched Saturday at Cherbourg. Le Tonnant is the last of its class and will carry 16 missiles, each with a single one-megaton warhead and a range of some 3,000 kilometers. The submarine probably will not enter service until 1980.//

25X1 [] //The French are developing a new class of smaller nuclear submarine that will be armed with a multiple warhead missile. The first of these probably will become operational in the mid-1980s. []

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France

25X1 [] The Left Alliance of Communists, Socialists, and Left Radicals met yesterday to update its Common Program for Governing but remained split on the issue of additional nationalizations. Another meeting is set for today.

25X1 [] The Communists had publicly agreed before yesterday's meeting to drop the Peugeot-Citroen automobile works and the Compagnie Francaise des Petroles from their list of candidates for nationalization. They also indicated that they might compromise on the number of subsidiaries to be nationalized and on a phrase in the Common Program--to which the Left Radicals strongly object--allowing workers to vote on the nationalization of their companies.

25X1 [] The Communists are still holding firm on their demand for complete nationalization of the steel industry. This is important to them in competing with the Socialists for worker votes in eastern France and in strengthening their position in the north.

25X1 [] Communist leader Marchais said that the negotiations had been "very difficult" and that the Communists had done everything they could to reach an accord. He said it is now up to the Socialists and Left Radicals, "who so far have not presented any new proposals." []

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Philippines

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[REDACTED] //Fighting broke out yesterday between Philippine Government forces and Muslim rebels in what press reports suggest is the most serious rupture in the eight-month cease-fire in the southern Philippines. The flareup began last weekend when a number of Christian Filipinos were killed by a landmine allegedly planted by Muslim rebels. Government forces retaliated by attacking rebel positions with aircraft and heavy weapons.//

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[REDACTED] //Many younger and more radical Muslims have not been inclined to go along with the cease-fire. Philippine military commanders have been carrying out selective search-and-destroy operations against the rebel forces for some time. While neither side appears to want a resumption of full-scale hostilities, this latest episode serves to illustrate the fragile nature of the cease-fire. [REDACTED]

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Turkey

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[REDACTED] Turkey announced a devaluation of the Turkish lira of about 10 percent against the dollar yesterday in a further effort to alleviate the country's serious foreign-exchange shortage. Cross rates with other major currencies were also adjusted.

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[REDACTED] Earlier this month, Prime Minister Demirel introduced a moderate package of stabilization measures, designed mainly to discourage imports and promote exports. The International Monetary Fund, however, probably has insisted on stronger steps including a 20 to 30 percent devaluation of the lira, as a condition for granting a loan regarded as crucial to restoring Turkey's international credit rating. Hence, a further drop in the lira may be forthcoming. [REDACTED]

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Ecuador

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[REDACTED] //Ecuador has set 15 January as the date for a long-awaited constitutional referendum--the first major step toward a return to elected government in 1978. The military government of President Alfredo Poveda, which seized power in January 1976, will ask voters to choose between a newly drafted constitution and a revision of the popular constitution of 1945.//

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[REDACTED] //Although Ecuadoreans generally approve of the planned return to civilian rule, there appears to be considerable public ignorance, as well as some apathy, about the referendum. The major political parties are expected to urge their followers to turn out in large numbers, but even a moderate turnout should encourage the government to proceed to the next phase--a national presidential election campaign. [REDACTED]

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